into existance despite heavy military presence; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to comb the area afresh and destroy all such bunkers as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are no reports on the existence of terrorists' bunkers in Poonch or in other districts in Jammu and Kashmir. In a few cases, Army/Rashtriya Rifles (RR) have discovered hideouts in the upper reaches of Surankot Tehsil and other remote areas of Poonch district. These hideouts were used as logistic bases by the terrorists and were destroyed by the Army/RR. Though the Army/RR have established a Counter Insurgency grid in these areas, the vast and rugged terrain poses difficulties to the presence of the Army/RR at each and every location. Despite this, Army/RR operations have been very effective in neutralising the terrorists and destroying the hideouts.

(c) Proactive counter Proxy War operations continue to be conducted by the Army/Rashtriya Rifles.

Pilferage of gun shells on route to Jabalpur Ordnance Factory

1075. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gun shells contained in one load of wagon transported from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh to Jabalpur Ordnance Factory were stolen in the 2nd week of September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been instituted; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.